



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

March 21, 2017

Dear Senator Hatch,

On behalf of the YMCA of Utah, and the Y Movement throughout the country, I want to share our appreciation for your leadership in sponsoring the Child Protection Improvements Act. Your many past efforts to advance this legislation and protect our nation's children from harm is commendable. This bi-partisan measure has come close to being finalized on more than one occasion, and with your leadership, we hope to see this bill passed this session.

By way of background, I want to share with you the policies that our Y has adopted to protect the children in our care. Though it is not required, we have chosen to have EVERY employee at the YMCA of Northern Utah go through the Utah Child Care License process that includes FBI fingerprint background check. We have set the bar high by including all employees regardless of whether they work directly with children. While we have access to FBI fingerprint background checks in Utah, not all states provide such access to youth-serving organizations.

We are grateful that our state enables us to conduct FBI fingerprint background checks; however, this is a very expensive commitment for our Y. The Child Protection Improvements Act will help YMCAs and other organizations across the country not only access important FBI fingerprint background checks, but help control costs associated with such checks and provide results in a timely manner. Furthermore, this legislation will enable thousands of organizations serving children to conduct comprehensive background checks – including FBI fingerprint background checks – thereby deterring predators from targeting the children served by these organizations. To protect the children in our care and in our respective communities, we must remove the barriers of access, cost and delayed results.

You have been and continue to be, a wonderful partner to the Y and we enjoy working with you in myriad ways to support Utah's children and families. Please let me know how we can support you in getting this legislation passed.

Thank you again for your leadership and partnership. I look forward to seeing you when you are back in Utah.

Sincerely,

Rich West
CEO, YMCA of Northern Utah

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